

2013 Needs Assessment for Tuscaloosa County

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Accomplishments

CPC members have supported and/or hosted a number of events in Tuscaloosa County over the past year that have benefited the children of Tuscaloosa County and their families. The events include:

- Summer 2012 - Tuscaloosa's One Place (TOP) Camp Smile provided enrichment activities and character education to children ages 5-10.
- June and July 2012 - TEAMS Summer Academy - to provide juvenile court involved youth a safe positive environment during the summer.
- July 2012 - IRMHC organized the 8th Annual C.P. Winters Summer C.A.M.P. for clients ages 6-14. The primary goal of C.A.M.P. is to provide needed mental health services and constructive activities to children with mental health issues. C.P. Winters C.A.M.P. is a non-profit camp established solely to benefit the mental health needs of children in our community. By providing individual counseling, group therapy, basic living skills, and positive activities (i.e., swimming, hiking, canoeing, sports, arts and crafts, etc.) we enrich the lives of the kids involved. C.P. Winters C.A.M.P. promotes a safe environment, in which the children are given the opportunity to enhance many health qualities of development, such as knowledge, coping skills, social skills, anger management, and self-esteem.
- July 2012 - Training and technical assistance for child care providers was provided by CDR (Child Development Resources) during three Professional Development Saturday events, 2 held in July 2012 and 1 held in March 2013, for child care providers to increase knowledge in best practice for young children.
- August 2012 - CDR continued its coordination of public awareness efforts for Alabama's Parenting Assistance Line that included television ads and live interviews in markets throughout Alabama, a web ad, 2 'Live Feed' events (August 2012 & April 2013), billboard displays in key areas of Alabama, 2 published articles and continued print ads in area Parenting publications throughout Alabama, and presentations and/or exhibits at events across the state
- August 2012 - TOP's Tuscaloosa Backpack Coalition - 1,113 children received backpacks with their

school supplies

- August 2012 - TOP's Heatin Up the Diamond (softball tournament)
- August 2012 - CDR's Parenting Resource Library staff planned special activities for families during the UA Graduate Parent Support Fall Kick-Off held at the Child Development Research Center.
- September 2012 - Tuscaloosa County named as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People
- October 2012 - TOP Fall Festival provided free games, food and family based activities to over 950 participants and 261 volunteers.
- October 2012 - CDR's Director and Assistant Director presented about Alabama's Parenting Assistance Line (PAL) at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference held at the University of Alabama.
- October 2012 - Read for the Record (United Way, Success by Six)
- October 2012 - Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) participated in the University of Alabama Homecoming parade, with Olympic Gold Medalist and University of Alabama standout track athlete, Kirani James as the float ambassador. Participation gave BBBS exposure in the community, and was a wonderful activity that our Littles were able to participate in with their Bigs and families.
- October 2012 - Easter Seals West Alabama held its 6th Annual Walk with Me a Fall fundraiser that benefited the Speech-Language Department.
- November 2012 - BBBS had our 10th Annual No Show Ball. This is an event where invitations are sent out to donors and are asked to stay at home. Instead of spending money on a tuxedo or a new gown for a ball, we ask that you take the money you would spend on those items and donate the money to our organization.
- November 2012 - VOICES Regional training
- November and December 2012 - Holiday Heart is a Thanksgiving and Christmas Assistance Program. TOP provided 58 families with holiday meals and provided 368 children with Christmas gifts.
- November 2012 - TOP held its Iron Bowl Contest with partners: Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers
- December 2012 - BBBS with our Littles, Bigs and their families were invited to go skating at Holidays on the River on Jack Warner Parkway.
- January 2013 - Child Development Resources assisted in the coordination and hosting of a community Legislative Event and CTF Check Presentation held at CDR to bring awareness to the importance of prevention of child abuse and neglect and the prevention services in place to assist families. All Tuscaloosa CTF funded Grantees were represented.
- January 2013 - Doing What Matters for Alabama's Children Conference
- February 2013 - TOP's Marriage Banquet - 7 couples were recognized for long lasting healthy marriages
- February 2013 - Tuscaloosa Mardi Gras Pooch Parade - partners: Tuscaloosa's One Place, Phoenix House and YMCA Benjamin Barnes
- February 2013 - Rockin Red Affair - partners: Tuscaloosa's One Place, Temporary Emergency Services, Turning Point, FOCUS on Senior Citizens
- February 2013, BBBS co-hosted the first ever Tuscaloosa Krispy Kreme Challenge with YMCA of Tuscaloosa.
- March 2013 - TOP Spring Fling provided free games, food and family based activities to over 1,000 participants and 152 volunteers.
- March 2013 - Anglers in Action (Fishing tournament hosted by TOP).
- March 2013 - BBBS passed out biodegradable balloons to finishers of the Fun Run, part of the Tuscaloosa Half Marathon, that were released after the race concluded.
- April 2013 - In recognition of the National Month of the Young Child the Child Development Resources hosted the 3rd Annual 'Backyard Bash' with over 500 children, parents, and volunteers. This

was a free community-wide outside event designed for children, birth to 8 years old, and parents to play together and to encourage nurturing and positive relationships

- April 2013- Child Abuse Prevention Month - Blue Ribbon Tree at Snow Hinton park - Ribbons represented support for all children throughout Tuscaloosa and Surrounding Counties, Wear Blue Flyer (Every Friday during the month of April in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Blue Ribbons distributed to Staff to wear the entire month of April.
- April 2013 - In honor of the Week of the Young Child Tuscaloosa's One Place sponsored the 'BOOKWORM BOOGIE' at the Tuscaloosa Public Library where Parents participated in a Parent Café and discussed Family Literacy for birth to age five, while child care and Kindermusik were provided for children ages two to five. Tuscaloosa's One Place also partnered with the Tuscaloosa Public Library with the 'Preschool in the Park' at Government Plaza. There were stories, games, and fun for ages birth to 5 years old. Tuscaloosa's One Place staff also read to daycare centers in our area as we promoted literacy and the joy of reading.
- April 2013 - Parenting Resource Library staff planned special activities as well as a children's book give-away to highlight the National Month of the Young Child
- April 2013 - BBBS had a team that including our Littles, that cheered on participants in the Mayor's Cup Race.
- May 2013 - Easter Seals West Alabama Champions for Tuscaloosa was held to benefit the Speech-Language Department.
- June 2013 - TOP 1st annual Fathers in the Park - a free family fun day for fathers and their children.

2013 Needs Assessment for Tuscaloosa County

First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Children stay out of trouble.

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
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| <p>The Bridge has been involved in the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) since inception in 2007/2008. The Bridge opened the Tuscaloosa Adolescent Support Services (TASS) program in October 2008 with assistance from Tuscaloosa County Commission and DYS as a program to prevent/deter adolescents from commitment to Department of Youth Services (DYS). This program continues to provide adolescents the opportunity to engage in a variety of services on a weekly basis. Services offered include but are not limited to Behavioral Modification, Basic Living Skills, Clinical Group Therapy, Individual therapy, Family therapy, Case management services, Job Readiness Skills, Employment assistance, Transportation (to include assistance with transporting adolescents to other community referred programs), On-Site GED services, On Site Mentoring Program, and Community service projects.</p> <p>The Special Programming for Achievement Network (S.P.A.N.) of Tuscaloosa County is a non-residential, co-educational, comprehensive approach to meeting the service and training needs of at-risk youth, who are involved with the Juvenile Court System, and their families. The purpose of our program is to develop social, behavioral, academic, and family skills needed to become productive members of the community. The S.P.A.N. Program is a year-round program serving court-referred youth, males and females, ages 12-18 years old. Volunteers/Interns from the University of Alabama serve the students throughout the program year. An Advisory Board with a 501(c)(3) status conducts ongoing fundraising efforts throughout the year to provide incentives and educational opportunities for the enrolled youth. The following individualized</p> | <p>Additional federal and local funding. Volunteers.</p> |

services and training are provided free of charge to each youth: assessment, success planning , academic Remediation/GED training , Individual Counseling , Group Counseling , Behavior Change Program, Collaborative Interactions with Family/Juvenile Probation Staff , Breakout services for short term enrollment that includes Assessment/Follow up/Custom Design Services, Motivational System, Monthly Evaluation of Progress, Transitional Follow-up Services, and Linkage to other service agencies in Tuscaloosa County.

During this program year, Easter Seals West Alabama Future Promise Program formerly the Alabama Workforce Investment Area (WIA), served a total of 77 eligible youth. Of these 77 youth, seven participants earned a GED, one participant is currently enrolled in post-secondary training, and two participants are scheduled to begin post-secondary training in August. Another 14 participants have achieved EFL gains meeting or exceeding two full grade levels. In addition to 13 participants maintaining regular employment, Future Promise has matched 12 participants with employers in need of basic services through its Work Experience Program.

Indian Rivers Mental Health Center (IRMHC) two In-Home teams provide more intensive services. The C.H.I.N.S. Team (Children In Need Of Supervision), targets youth that meet the State Target Population requirements that are becoming beyond parental control and in danger of Juvenile Court involvement. The F.I.N.D. Team (Family Integrity Network Demonstration) targets those youth meeting the State Target Population requirements that are at imminent risk of out of home placement in Tuscaloosa, Bibb, and Pickens County. In-Home services are designed as a 12 week program, with a possible 4 week extension. Furthermore, IRMHC has a clinician serving as our Juvenile Court Liaison (JCL). The JCL works exclusively with youth and families who come to the attention of the juvenile courts and have mental health needs. The JCL serves Tuscaloosa, Bibb, and Pickens County as a mental health presence at juvenile court.

Easter Seals West Alabama provides year round services to help children stay out of trouble,

including: need based transportation to and from GED classes, case management, job development/job placement, mentoring, semi-annual Junior Achievement classes, and referrals to community agencies, and job readiness instruction.

Bradford Health Services provided numerous services throughout the year that helped the children of Tuscaloosa County stay out of trouble, including: assessing an average of 40-50 kids a month in our crisis office to screen for addiction including all detention kids and city school referrals; attended HELP and IMPACT throughout the year to offer drug screens and services for children and families at risk of expulsion from school; provided 2 sessions of intervention to city school referrals that were at risk of expulsion; facilitated weekly sessions of in-school substance prevention curriculum 'CAST program' at City Alternative School to at risk kids; and provided weekly aftercare to adolescents who completed treatment.

TEAMS - Tuscaloosa Encouraging Adolescents with Monitoring and Support - electronic monitoring and intensive case management for children involved in juvenile court.

Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program will place an at need child in a relationship with a mentor that will engage the child for one hour each week during school hours. The relationships built through this program will help each child in achieve educational success, build confidence, improve personal relationships and avoid risky behaviors.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to enhance early intervention programs by working in collaboration with the school systems, and the alternative programs offered through organizations such as Tuscaloosa's One Place, the Bridge, TASS, etc.
2. Continue to create mentoring programs for at risk youth and their families.
3. Continue to support faith based community to restore a sense of community in our neighborhoods.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Families are hopeful and positively engaged in children's development.

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
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| <p>Child Development Resources (CDR), a community service initiative of the College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Alabama, focuses all services in assisting families, child care providers, and young children to reach their fullest potential through a variety of kinds of activities.</p> <p>CDR's Baby TALK is a collaborative community effort designed to encourage parents in the nurture of their very young children ages birth-3 years by providing basic child development information and suggestions for developmentally appropriate activities. Baby TALK identifies and builds on the strengths of parents, supports parents with developmental information shared at critical times, and encourages a positive parent/child relationship primarily through reading aloud. This program is implemented through: hospital visits to new moms at two area hospitals, parent/child visits at University Medical Center Pediatrics, the Maude Whatley Health Care Clinic, and the WIC Clinic at Tuscaloosa County Department of Public Health; monthly Family Fun Events with Early Head Start families; and Baby TALK Times parent/child 8-week groups.</p> <p>CDR operates a free on-site Parent Resource Library (PRL) offering parenting resources and books, parent-child activity kits, and other materials to support families in their parenting. Staff can also help parents learn about all the available child care options and provide information to help parents make the right child care choice for their family.</p> <p>CDR has continued its Parenting Assistance Line (PAL), a statewide parenting assistance phone line to provide free and confidential information, support, and tools to parents across the state of</p> | |

Alabama to make parenting more manageable. The PAL website has over 125 different parenting and/or child development 'Parent Tip Sheets' as well as a means of contacting a Parent Resource Specialist directly.

Tuscaloosa's One Place Fatherhood programs offer a comprehensive initiative that partners with DHR, the Court system, and other groups, designed to improve parenting, with a primary emphasis on career development. By developing career opportunities for unemployed or underemployed fathers, many fathers have been able to pay child support while improving job skills and increasing self-sufficiency for their families. Through case management services, group meetings and referrals to other agencies, these program aims to improve the overall health of the participants and their children.

The Foster Grandparent Program of Tuscaloosa County mentored and or tutored more than 600 at-risk and special needs children in the three Head Start Programs, seven Tuscaloosa City Schools, two Tuscaloosa County Schools, and two 501(3) (c) Faith Based Day Care Centers. Fifty-eight un-duplicated Foster Grandparent Program volunteers provided 52164.96 hours of direct services to students in one to one setting and/or in small groups. Additionally, these volunteers assisted other students in the classrooms as needed. This program has impacted Tuscaloosa County tremendously, especially in those neighborhood schools who have experienced difficulties in meeting AYP and maintaining State of Alabama Standards. Most of our Foster Grandparents serve as volunteers in their neighborhoods and have a vested interest in mentoring, and tutoring these young people, by assisting in making their schools the best learning environment that they can be. The 2012 - 2013 year-end reports from the schools revealed that more than 90% of the children who were mentored by Foster Grandparents were promoted or achieved the goals and objectives directly related to their course of study or exceded standards.

Bradford Health Services provided services throughout the year that helped the ensure that families are hopeful and positively engaged in

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| children's development, including: facilitating our free Parent Support Meeting weekly to any parents concerned about their children, which is open to the community. | |
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Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue programs in existence.
2. Continue and encourage partnerships with local organizations, businesses and the school systems.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Children are safe.

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
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| <p>The Alabama Medicaid Agency offered medical insurance through our Family Certification Division to help children, pregnant women, and low income families obtain medical coverage through Medicaid so that children and pregnant women can receive needed medical services. Keeping children immunized and providing medical insurance that assists pregnant women in receiving prenatal care and education about the health of their children.</p> <p>Ability Alliance of West Alabama provided case management services and waiver monitoring for children with intellectual disabilities who qualify for services through the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities.</p> <p>The Bridge provided Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment services for adolescents in Tuscaloosa County since inception in 2000. We have continued to offer an array of services for adolescents that are in need of substance abuse treatment which includes but is not limited to Adolescent ASAM Integrated Placement Assessment, Clinical Group Therapy, Individual therapy, Family therapy, Multi-Family Group, and Case management services.</p> <p>Easter Seals Nurse-Family Partnership provided home visitation services performed by registered nurses to low income, first time moms. Clients are enrolled in NFP by their 28th week of pregnancy and home visits will continue to the child's 2nd birthday. Nurse-Family Partnership enrolled a total of 45 clients over the last year, of which 12 of those clients were under age 21. There were 20 children born over the last year. The current active caseload is 33 clients.</p> <p>Easter Seals West Alabama performed (51) Speech-Language screenings in a local private school. Easter Seals West Alabama performed</p> | <p>Additional federal and local funding.</p> <p>Transportation assistance.</p> <p>Volunteers.</p> |

(665) Speech-Language therapy sessions to (69) Tuscaloosa county children.

Child Development Resources manages the Alabama Child Care Subsidy Program administered through the Alabama Department of Human Resources for 12 counties. CDR helps eligible parents stay in school or remain working by paying for child care. This year CDR awarded child care for over 2000 children.

Child Development Resources (CDR), a community service initiative of the College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Alabama operates a free on-site Parent Resource Library (PRL) offering parenting resources and books, parent-child activity kits, and other materials to support families in their parenting. Staff can also help parents learn about all the available child care options and provide information to help parents make the right child care choice for their family.

CDR continued its training and technical assistance for child care providers. Child care providers and teachers can take advantage of extensive on-site training, large and small group training opportunities, and technical assistance to enhance their professional development and knowledge of developmentally appropriate practice throughout the 12-county service area. The Learning Center (located on-site) and the Rolling Resources Van provides resources and training for providers to use in their programs. Although the services are focused on child care providers, the results of the services provide for higher quality of care for the children and families they serve.

Indian Rivers Mental Health Center (IRMHC) - Childrens' Services - IRMHC provides therapeutic services (including individual, family, and group therapy), In-Home Intervention, basic living skills, psychiatric services, medication monitoring, family support/education, case management, and diagnostic testing at our main office, as well as some services in the community. Individual and family therapy services can range from a few times weekly to twice monthly, depending on the needs of the client. IRMCHC group sessions, focusing on anger management, coping skills, and family support topics are held weekly and run

approximately six to eight weeks; although, the session schedules vary. IRMHC also has two additional Bachelor's Level Case Managers who provide needs assessment, advocacy, linkage, crisis intervention, family support, basic living skills, and transportation. Case Management services are provided as needed, but maintain a minimum of monthly contact.

Easter Seals West Alabama provides year round services to ensure children are safe, including: referrals to community agencies, referring youth with disabilities to the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and vocational assessments/counseling.

Bradford Health Services provided numerous services throughout the year that helped ensure that the children of Tuscaloosa County were safe, including: providing 6 week education sessions throughout the year to approximately 30 children who were at risk of addiction; providing our Intensive Outpatient Program which is 3 ½ hour a day counseling sessions to teens dealing with substance abuse issues and included their families in weekly family therapy sessions and provided space for a young person's NA meeting.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to create programs to partner with the member organizations/entities to increase awareness of signs of abuse and neglect.
2. Provide educational opportunities to address the impact of domestic violence on these matters.
3. Increase awareness of mental health and substance abuse issues and the role they play in abuse and neglect cases.
4. Increase awareness and availability of therapeutic counseling and in-home services.